

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5        A system includes a security management system for  
a plurality of managed products. The security  
management system stores configuration data for managed  
products and managed nodes in a directory.  
Configuration data is stored in the directory in the  
10      form of configuration objects and setting objects. A  
revision history of a configuration object and/or a  
setting object can be maintained. Inheritance between  
configuration objects is supported so that a  
configuration inheritance chain is available. To  
15      determine an effective configuration at a point in  
time, a parent-child inheritance merge process is used.  
To assist the parent-child inheritance process, name  
attributes and collision resolution mode attributes are  
used.

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